

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06730 110910Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-07 DHA-02 OES-07  
EB-08 IGA-02 /102 W  
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P R 110839Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5673  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, KS  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK'S CHINHAE NEWS CONFERENCE

REF: SEOUL 6964(DTG 050852Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PAK'S AUGUST 10 NEWS CONFERENCE, REPORTED TODAY IN ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS, PROVIDES THE KOREAN PUBLIC FURTHER DETAILS ON RESULTS OF JULY SCM AND REAFFIRMS PAK'S GENERALLY CONFIDENT AND FIRM DOMESTIC LINE. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTERNOON PAPERS AUGUST 11, CARRYING SUMMARIES OF PRESIDENT PAK'S REMARKS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, QUOTE HIM AS SAYING THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN PROMISED ROK \$1.9 BILLION IN SUPPORT AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO HOLD ANY OF THE THREE UPCOMING ELECTIONS EARLIER THAN SCHEDULED BY LAW. IN COMMENTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE THIS MORNING (HAPTONG WIRE ITEM SAYS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ON MORNING OF AUGUST 10) AT HIS RESORT NEAR CHINHAE, PRESIDENT PAK SAID SECRETARY BROWN HAD TALKED OF \$1.1 BILLION IN FMS  
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(\$275 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR FOUR YEARS), \$300 MILLION MORE IN FMS (APPARENTLY ONE-TIME PAYMENT), AND A GRANT OF \$500 MILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT FROM THE SECOND DIVISION, IF POSSIBLE. PAK ACKNOWLEDGED HE AND SECY. BROWN HAD DISCUSSED ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THEIR PRIVATE TALKS, BUT HE REFUSED TO PURSUE ISSUE, CITING USG POLICY OF NOT DISCUSSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS PUBLICLY.

PAK ALSO SAID, "WE ARE NOT MAKING AND DO NOT POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

2. MOVING TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, PAK SAID "THERE IS NO NEED TO REVISE THE PRESENT ELECTION SYSTEM," BUT INDICATED HE MIGHT CONSIDER OPPOSITION SUGGESTIONS FOR POLLWATCHERS OR PARTIAL CHANGES IN ELECTION DISTRICTS, "IF REASONABLE." HE SAID THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN THE PERIOD PRESCRIBED BY LAW AND THAT NEITHER HE, THE ROKG, NOR DRP HAD YET CONSIDERED WHEN THEY MIGHT BE HELD.

3. ASKED ABOUT IMPRISONED VIOLATORS OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURES, PAK SAID, "THIS PROBLEM HAS NO CONNECTION WITH SO-CALLED 'HUMAN RIGHTS'.... IF THEY CLEARLY SHOW REPENTENCE AND PROMISE NOT TO VIOLATE THE LAW AGAIN, WE ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO CONSIDER LENIENT ACTION."

4. COMMENTING ON THE YUSIN SYSTEM, PAK SAID MOST OPPOSITION POLITICIANS ACCEPT THE OPPOSITION'S POSITION, "BUT SOME OF THEM STILL FORGET THE SITUATION OF OUR COUNTRY AND...CANNOT FREE THEMSELVES FROM WORSHIP OF THE POWERFUL (SADAEJUUI). ...SUCH PEOPLE ARE NOT FIT TO BE CITIZENS OF A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT COUNTRY."

5. ASKED ABOUT "POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT," PAK SAID, "I UNDERSTAND THIS AS THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOINING FORCES TO IMPROVE THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE... WITHIN THE YUSIN SYSTEM...RATHER THAN (AS) A PLEDGE DIRECTED AT ANY PARTICULAR ISSUE."

6. PAK CONTINUED HIS THEME OF CONFIDENCE VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA SAYING, "WE ARE SUPERIOR TO THE NORTHERN PUPPETS NOT ONLY IN THE AREA OF MATERIAL NATIONAL DEFENSE, BUT ALSO IN THE MENTAL FIGHTING POWER OF OUR ARMY, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE." IN CONNECTION WITH NORTH KOREA'S ANNOUNCEMENTS OF A MARINE ECONOMIC ZONE AND MILITARY BOUNDARY, PAK SAID, "THIS UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE IS AIMED AT TESTING US, IN CONNECTION WITH THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL. THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR IF WE MAINTAIN OUR...PREPARATIONS AND RESOLVE."

7. COMMENT: THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT HIS SUMMER RESORT IS AN ANNUAL EVENT. PAK USED THE OCCASION THIS YEAR TO RESTATE A FIRM DOMESTIC LINE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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